IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of   :

Yoshihiko MATSUKAWA et al.   :   **Attn: BOX PCT**

Serial No. NEW   :   **Docket No. 2000-1663A**

Filed December 8, 2000   :

IMAGE CODING APPARATUS, IMAGE
DECODING APPARATUS, CHARACTER
COLLATION APPARATUS, AND DATA
STORAGE MEDIUM
**[Corresponding to PCT/JP99/03066
Filed June 9, 1999]**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
    Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Kindly amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

44.   (Amended) A data storage medium containing an image processing program for making a computer perform image data processing, said image processing program being a program for making a computer perform image processing of an apparatus [defined in any of Claims 1 to 43], or a program for implementing, with a computer, the function of at least one means which constitutes an apparatus, defined in any of Claims [1 to 43] 1-12, 17-28, and 34-43.

Claim 45,   line 19, after "17," delete "18, and 33" and after "17," insert --and 18--.